

1724 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20009
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Interviews: 807 adults
Dates: October 8-10, 2005

47 Male
53 Female
[109]

FINAL

Study #6057
NBC News/Wall Street Journal
October 2005

Please note: all results are shown as percentages unless otherwise stated.

The margin of error for 807 interviews is $\pm 3.4\%$

1. All in all, do you think that things in the nation are generally headed in the right direction, or do you feel that things are off on the wrong track?

	<u>10/05</u>	<u>9/05</u>	<u>7/05</u>	<u>5/05</u>	<u>4/05</u>	<u>2/05</u>	<u>High</u> <u>9/01</u>	<u>Low</u> <u>7/92+</u>	
Headed in the right direction....	28	32	34	35	34	42	72	14	[138]
Off on the wrong track.....	59	57	52	52	51	48	11	71	
Mixed (VOL).....	10	8	12	10	12	8	11	9	
Not sure.....	3	3	2	3	3	2	6	6	
		<u>1/05</u>	<u>12/04</u>	<u>10/04+</u>	<u>9/04+</u>	<u>8/04+</u>	<u>7/04+</u>	<u>6/04+</u>	
		40	41	39	39	36	36	36	
		47	46	48	49	50	48	48	
		10	11	10	10	12	14	14	
		3	2	3	2	2	2	2	
	<u>5/04+</u>	<u>3/04</u>	<u>1/04</u>	<u>12/14/03</u>	<u>12/13/03</u>	<u>11/03</u>	<u>9/03</u>	<u>7/03</u>	
	33	41	47	56	41	43	38	42	
	50	49	43	30	48	47	50	44	
	14	5	6	9	8	6	8	9	
	3	5	4	5	3	3	4	4	
	<u>5/03+</u>	<u>4/03</u>	<u>1/03</u>	<u>12/02</u>	<u>10/02+</u>	<u>9/02</u>	<u>7/02</u>	<u>6/02</u>	
	49	62	36	43	44	42	40	52	
	38	22	47	42	42	43	42	31	
	8	13	14	13	14	12	14	14	
	5	3	3	2	-	3	4	3	
	<u>4/02</u>	<u>1/02</u>	<u>12/01</u>	<u>9/01</u>	<u>6/01</u>	<u>1/01</u>	<u>10/00</u>	<u>10/95</u>	
	53	62	70	72	43	45	48	26	
	28	20	15	11	39	36	32	54	
	15	14	12	11	14	15	18	15	
	4	4	3	6	4	4	2	5	

+ Results shown reflect responses among registered voters.

2a. How old are you? (IF "REFUSED," ASK:) Well, would you tell me which age group you belong to?

18-24.....	12	50-54.....	9	[139-140]
25-29.....	7	55-59.....	8	
30-34.....	9	60-64.....	9	
35-39.....	7	65-69.....	5	
40-44.....	8	70-74.....	5	
45-49.....	13	75 and over.....	7	
		Refused.....	1	

2b. To ensure that we have a representative sample, would you please tell me whether you are from a Hispanic or Spanish-speaking background?

Yes, Hispanic.....	11	[141]
No, not Hispanic.....	89	
Not sure/refused.....	-	

2c. And again, for statistical purposes only, what is your race--white, black, Asian, or something else?

White.....	75	[142]
Black.....	11	
Asian.....	2	
Other.....	2	
Hispanic (VOL).....	9	
Not sure/refused.....	1	

3a. In general, do you approve or disapprove of the job that George W. Bush is doing as president?

	<u>10/05</u>	<u>9/05</u>	<u>7/05</u>	<u>5/05</u>	<u>4/05</u>	<u>2/05</u>	<u>High</u> <u>11/01</u>	<u>Low</u> <u>9/05</u>	
Approve.....	39	40	46	47	48	50	88	40	[143]
Disapprove.....	54	55	49	47	46	45	7	55	
Not sure.....	7	5	5	6	6	5	5	5	
		<u>1/05</u>	<u>12/04</u>	<u>10/04+</u>	<u>9/04+</u>	<u>8/04+</u>	<u>7/04+</u>	<u>6/04+</u>	
		50	49	49	47	47	48	45	
		44	44	47	48	48	46	49	
		6	7	4	5	5	6	6	
		<u>5/04+</u>	<u>3/04</u>	<u>1/04</u>	<u>12/14/03</u>	<u>12/13/03</u>	<u>11/03</u>	<u>9/03</u>	
		47	50	54	58	52	51	49	
		46	46	41	34	41	44	45	
		7	5	6	9	7	5	6	
		<u>7/03</u>	<u>5/03+</u>	<u>4/03</u>	<u>3/29-30/03</u>	<u>3/23/03</u>	<u>3/17/03</u>	<u>2/03¹</u>	<u>1/03</u>
		56	62	71	66	67	62	61	54
		38	31	23	29	28	33	31	40
		6	7	6	5	5	5	8	6
		<u>12/02</u>	<u>10/02+</u>	<u>9/02</u>	<u>7/02</u>	<u>6/02</u>	<u>5/02</u>	<u>4/02</u>	<u>4/01</u>
		62	63	64	67	69	75	74	57
		33	31	30	27	23	18	20	22
		5	6	6	6	8	7	6	21

+ Results shown reflect responses among registered voters.

- 3b. Now I'm going to read you the names of several public figures and organizations, and I'd like you to rate your feelings toward each one as either very positive, somewhat positive, neutral, somewhat negative, or very negative. If you don't know the name, please just say so.

	<u>Very Positive</u>	<u>Somewhat Positive</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Somewhat Negative</u>	<u>Very Negative</u>	<u>Don't Know Name/ Not Sure</u>	
George W. Bush							[144]
October 2005.....	21	20	11	17	31	-	
September 2005.....	24	18	10	14	34	-	
July 2005.....	27	20	10	15	28	-	
May 2005.....	27	22	10	12	29	-	
April 2005.....	28	20	11	16	25	-	
February 2005.....	31	20	9	13	27	-	
January 2005.....	32	19	9	15	25	-	
December 2004.....	31	19	9	13	28	-	
October 2004+.....	36	14	6	13	31	-	
August 2004+.....	33	16	8	12	31	-	
July 2004+.....	29	19	8	13	30	1	
June 2004+.....	33	15	8	14	30	-	
May 2004+.....	30	19	8	13	30	-	
March 2004.....	34	16	8	13	28	-	
January 2004.....	38	17	8	13	24	-	
September 2003.....	35	17	9	15	23	1	
July 2003.....	38	21	9	14	17	-	
January 2003.....	36	20	12	16	16	-	
October 2002+.....	37	24	11	12	15	1	
January 2001.....	25	25	18	13	17	2	
<i>High</i>							
December 2001.....	54	26	9	6	5	-	
<i>Low</i>							
September 2005.....	24	18	10	14	34	-	
Harriet Miers							[145]
October 2005.....	5	13	28	7	4	43	

+ Results shown reflect responses among registered voters.

Q.3b (cont'd)

	Very Positive	Somewhat Positive	Neutral	Somewhat Negative	Very Negative	Don't Know Name/ Not Sure	
The Democratic Party							[146]
October 2005.....	10	24	32	19	13	2	
September 2005.....	11	26	29	18	14	2	
July 2005.....	9	25	28	22	14	2	
May 2005.....	12	26	26	20	14	2	
February 2005.....	14	28	28	16	13	1	
December 2004.....	18	26	22	19	14	1	
October 2004+.....	17	25	22	16	19	1	
September 2004+.....	16	26	20	18	19	1	
August 2004+.....	17	24	23	16	19	1	
July 2004+.....	16	25	24	19	14	2	
September 2003.....	11	29	22	19	16	3	
July 2003.....	11	25	25	20	16	3	
December 2002.....	13	27	27	16	15	2	
September 2002.....	12	26	30	17	12	3	
December 2001.....	18	30	26	14	9	3	
December 2000.....	23	23	18	16	18	2	
July 2000+.....	19	27	24	15	14	1	
<i>High</i>							
January 2000.....	20	30	23	15	10	2	
<i>Low</i>							
December 1994.....	10	23	25	24	16	2	
The Republican Party							[147]
October 2005.....	13	23	23	20	19	2	
September 2005.....	14	23	20	19	22	2	
July 2005.....	12	26	20	21	20	1	
May 2005.....	13	27	17	19	22	2	
February 2005.....	17	27	19	18	18	1	
December 2004.....	19	27	18	16	18	2	
October 2004+.....	20	24	18	15	22	1	
September 2004+.....	21	22	16	18	22	1	
August 2004+.....	18	26	17	16	22	1	
July 2004+.....	18	25	20	18	18	1	
September 2003.....	17	26	17	19	18	3	
July 2003.....	18	30	16	16	16	3	
December 2002.....	21	26	22	15	14	2	
September 2002.....	15	30	26	13	13	3	
December 2001.....	21	36	18	13	9	3	
December 2000.....	18	26	23	14	18	1	
July 2000+.....	15	28	24	16	15	2	
<i>High</i>							
December 2001.....	21	36	18	13	9	3	
<i>Low</i>							
March 1999.....	1	22	23	19	23	2	

+ Results shown reflect responses among registered voters.

Q.3b (cont'd)

	Very Positive	Somewhat Positive	Neutral	Somewhat Negative	Very Negative	Don't Know Name/ Not Sure	
Tom DeLay							[148]
October 2005.....	3	8	22	13	23	31	
May 2005.....	5	11	19	11	19	35	
April 2005.....	4	13	18	9	15	41	
January 2005.....	4	13	21	10	10	42	
December 2004.....	3	9	26	7	10	45	
December 2000.....	2	7	19	5	8	59	
July 2000+.....	3	7	18	4	9	59	
July 1999.....	2	7	19	3	4	65	

+ Results shown reflect responses among registered voters.

4. What is your preference for the outcome of the 2006 congressional elections--a Congress controlled by Republicans or a Congress controlled by Democrats?

	<u>10/05+</u>	<u>7/05+</u>	<u>5/05+¹</u>	<u>10/29- 31/04+</u>	<u>10/16- 18/04+</u>	<u>9/04+</u>	<u>6/04+</u>	<u>5/04+</u>	
Republican-controlled Congress.....	39	40	40	43	44	42	42	41	[149]
Democrat-controlled Congress.....	48	45	47	44	44	46	44	44	
Not sure ³	13	15	13	13	12	12	14	15	
	<u>3/04+</u>	<u>1/04</u>	<u>12/13/03</u>	<u>10/02+</u>	<u>9/02</u>	<u>7/02</u>	<u>6/02</u>		
	42	42	42	43	42	43	42		
	45	43	42	42	42	41	41		
	13	15	16	15	16	16	17		
	<u>1/02</u>	<u>12/01</u>	<u>12/99</u>	<u>10/99</u>	<u>7/99</u>	<u>6/99</u>	<u>4/99</u>		
	44	42	40	39	39	42	41		
	40	40	44	41	43	41	40		
	16	18	16	20	18	17	19		
	<u>3/99</u>	<u>10/98+</u>	<u>9/98</u>	<u>7/98</u>	<u>6/98</u>	<u>4/98</u>	<u>2/98</u>		
	37	41	40	41	39	37	41		
	43	43	39	40	40	41	37		
	20	16	21	19	21	22	22		
	<u>1/98</u>	<u>12/97</u>	<u>9/97</u>	<u>7/97</u>	<u>4/97</u>	<u>1/96</u>	<u>12/95</u>	<u>10/94²</u>	
	40	41	41	45	44	41	42	44	
	42	37	39	39	38	38	41	38	
	18	22	20	16	18	21	17	18	

¹ Prior to May 2005 the question was phrased, "What is your preference for the outcome of the upcoming congressional elections."

² In October 1994, the question referred to the 1994 congressional elections; the 1995 and 1996 survey dates referred to the 1996 congressional elections; the 1997 and 1998 dates refer to the 1998 congressional elections.

³ The volunteered responses "both equal," "neither in control," or "doesn't matter," were reported separately; for purposes of comparative they are combined with "not sure."

+ Results shown reflect responses among registered voters.

5. Let me list some issues that have been proposed for the federal government to address. Please tell me which one of these items you think should be the top priority for the federal government. (IF "ALL," ASK:) Well, if you had to choose just one, which do you think should be the top priority?

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY TOP PRIORITY

	Q.5a Top Priority		Q.5a/b COMBINED Top/Second Priorities
	<u>10/05</u>		<u>10/05</u>
Job creation and economic growth.....	21		35 [150-151]
The war in Iraq.....	14		29 [152-153]
Rebuilding the areas hit by Hurricane Katrina.....	13		27
The budget deficit.....	11	CONTINUE	21
The cost and the supply of energy.....	10		23
Terrorism.....	10		22
Social Security.....	9		20
Illegal immigration.....	8		15
Other (VOL).....	-		1
All equally (VOL).....	3		1
None of these (VOL).....	-	Skip to Q.6	-
Not sure.....	1		-

SEPTEMBER 2005		
	Top Priority	COMBINED Top/Second Priorities
Dealing with the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.....	33	49
Job creation and economic growth.....	14	28
The war in Iraq.....	12	30
Terrorism.....	11	24
The cost and the supply of energy.....	7	20
Social Security.....	7	17
Illegal immigration.....	7	15
The budget deficit.....	6	15
Other (VOL).....	-	1
All equally (VOL).....	3	1
None of these (VOL).....	-	-
Not sure.....	-	-

6. Please tell me which of the following statements comes closer to your point of view when it comes to tax cuts.

Statement A: Federal tax cuts have been worth it, because they have helped strengthen the economy by allowing Americans to keep more of their own money.

Statement B: Federal tax cuts have NOT been worth it, because they have increased the deficit and caused cuts in government programs.

	<u>10/05</u>	<u>4/05</u>	
Statement A /tax cuts worth it.....	39	38	[154]
Statement B /tax cuts NOT worth it.....	53	54	
Depends/some of both (VOL).....	4	4	
Not sure.....	4	4	

7. I'm going to read you several issues. For each one, please tell me whether you think that the worst is still ahead, that we are slowly putting the worst behind us with a long way to go, that we are quickly putting the worst behind us and better times are near, or that we have turned the corner and better times are here.

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY THE WORST IS STILL AHEAD

	The Worst Is Still Ahead	We Are Slowly Putting The Worst Behind Us With A Long Way To Go	We Are Quickly Putting The Worst Behind Us And Better Times Are Near	We Have Turned The Corner And Better Times Are Here	Not Sure	
Energy and fuel prices *.....	69	22	3	2	4	[158]
Gas prices **	61	30	6	1	2	[162]
The war in Iraq.....	40	45	8	5	2	[156/160]
The economy.....	40	37	10	9	4	[155/159]
The effects of Hurricane Katrina.....	21	57	13	7	2	[157/161]

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

8. Thinking ahead ten years from now, which event do you think will have had the greater impact on the United States--the September eleventh terrorist attacks or the aftermath of and rebuilding from Hurricane Katrina?

September 11 terrorist attacks.....	52	[163]
Hurricane Katrina aftermath.....	37	
Both equally (VOL).....	7	
Depends (VOL).....	2	
Not sure.....	2	

9. As you may know, President Bush recently nominated Harriet Miers to serve as a justice on the Supreme Court. Do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose Harriet Miers' serving as a justice on the Supreme Court, or do you not know enough about her to say?

Strongly support.....	11	[164]
Somewhat support.....	16	
Somewhat oppose.....	10	
Strongly oppose.....	11	
Do not know enough to say.....	51	
Not sure.....	1	

JOHN ROBERTS – SEPTEMBER 9-12, 2005

As you may know, President Bush recently nominated John Roberts to serve as the next Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose John Roberts' serving as the next Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, or do you not know enough about him to say?

Strongly support.....	22
Somewhat support.....	16
Somewhat oppose.....	10
Strongly oppose.....	10
Do not know enough to say.....	41
Not sure.....	1

10. Based on what you have heard so far, do you think that Harriet Miers is qualified or not qualified to be a Supreme Court justice, or do you not know enough about her to say?

Qualified.....	29	[165]
Not qualified.....	24	
Do not know enough to say.....	46	
Not sure.....	1	

11. I'm going to read you several things about Harriet Miers. For each one, please tell me whether this makes you feel more positive about Harriet Miers sitting on the Supreme Court, less positive, or does it make no difference to you either way?

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY MORE POSITIVE

	More Positive	Less Positive	No Difference Either Way	Not Sure	
She was the first woman to be president of the Texas Bar Association.....	47	10	42	1	[166]
She has been named one of America's one hundred most powerful lawyers.....	45	14	39	2	[169]
She has worked for President Bush as his personal lawyer for many years, previously while he was governor of Texas, and most recently as White House counsel.....	24	40	35	1	[167]
She has not previously served as a judge.....	8	50	40	2	[168]
Her positions on many legal issues facing the Court are unknown.....	8	52	37	3	[170]

12. When it comes to appointing people to positions in the government, which of the following things do you think President Bush puts greater emphasis on?

A: Personal friendships and partisan loyalty, OR

B: Competence and qualifications to do the job.

A: Personal friendships/partisan loyalty.....	54	[171]
B: Competence/qualifications to do the job.....	37	
Depends/some of both (VOL).....	6	
Not sure.....	3	

13. Recently, a series of charges have been raised against public officials. For each one I mention, please tell me whether this is nothing more than the usual kind of partisan political charge that has little merit, or whether you think this charge indicates potential illegal activity.

	Usual Political Charge/Has Little Merit	Indicates Potential Illegal Activity	Depends/Some Of Both (VOL)	Not Sure	
Congressman Tom DeLay being indicted for illegal use of corporate contributions to political campaigns.....	24	65	4	7	[172]
Senator Bill Frist's sale of stock in a company his family runs just before the value of the stock declined.....	28	57	3	12	[173]

Turning to the war in Iraq . . .

14. When it comes to the war in Iraq, do you think that removing Saddam Hussein from power was or was not worth the number of U.S. military casualties and the financial cost of the war?

	<u>10/05</u>	<u>9/05</u>	<u>7/05</u>	<u>5/05</u>	<u>4/05</u>	<u>2/05</u>	<u>1/05</u>	
Worth it.....	40	37	44	40	44	44	40	[174]
Not worth it.....	51	51	49	51	48	49	52	
Depends (VOL).....	4	5	4	4	4	3	3	
Not sure.....	5	7	3	5	4	4	5	
	<u>12/04</u>	<u>10/04+</u>	<u>9/04+</u>	<u>8/04+</u>	<u>7/04+</u>	<u>6/04+</u>		
	43	41	40	43	43	40		
	48	50	52	49	47	51		
	6	4	3	4	4	5		
	3	5	5	4	6	4		
	<u>5/04+</u>	<u>3/04</u>	<u>1/04</u>	<u>12/14/03</u>	<u>12/13/03</u>	<u>11/03</u>		
	42	50	52	53	45	45		
	47	45	40	37	42	46		
	5	1	2	5	6	3		
	6	4	5	5	6	5		

+ Results shown reflect responses among registered voters.

15. Do you think that the United States should maintain its current troop level in Iraq to help secure peace and stability, or should the United States reduce its number of troops once new elections have been held?

	<u>10/05</u>	<u>9/05</u> ¹	<u>7/05</u>	<u>5/05</u>	<u>4/05</u>	<u>2/05</u>	<u>1/05</u> ²	<u>12/04</u>	
Maintain current troop level.....	34	36	41	40	43	41	42	45	[175]
Reduce number of troops.....	58	55	48	53	49	50	48	41	
Depends/some of both (VOL).....	3	4	5	4	4	4	6	9	
Not sure.....	5	5	6	3	4	5	4	5	

¹ Prior to September 2005, the question was phrased, "... or should the United States now reduce its number of troops since elections have been held?"

² Prior to February 2005, the question was phrased, "If Iraq's elections do take place on January thirtieth as planned . . ."

16. And do you feel more confident or less confident that the war in Iraq will come to a successful conclusion?

	<u>10/05</u>	<u>7/05</u>	<u>5/05</u>	<u>4/05</u>	<u>2/05</u>	
More confident.....	35	36	40	44	47	[176]
Less confident.....	56	55	50	45	43	
Depends/some of both (VOL).....	4	5	6	6	5	
Not sure.....	5	4	4	5	5	
	<u>1/05</u>	<u>12/04</u>	<u>10/04+</u>	<u>9/04+</u>		
	41	41	46	37		
	48	48	41	53		
	6	6	8	5		
	5	5	5	5		

+ Results shown reflect responses among registered voters.

FACTUALS: Now I am going to ask you a few questions for statistical purposes only.

F1. Are you currently registered to vote at this address?

Registered.....	86	[180]
Not registered.....	13	
Not sure	1	

F2. A lot of people are unable to get out and vote for many reasons. Did you happen to vote in the November 2004 election for president? **(IF "YES," ASK:)** For whom did you vote--George W. Bush, John Kerry, or someone else?

Voted		
George W. Bush.....	38	[208]
John Kerry.....	36	
Someone else.....	4	
Refused (VOL).....	4	
Did Not Vote	16	
Not sure.....	2	

F3. What is the last grade that you completed in school?

Grade school.....	1	[209-210]
Some high school.....	5	
High school graduate.....	29	
Some college, no degree.....	21	
Vocational training/2-year college.....	11	
4-year college/bachelor's degree.....	20	
Some postgraduate work, no degree.....	3	
2 or 3 years' postgraduate work/master's degree.....	8	
Doctoral/law degree.....	2	
Not sure/refused.....	-	

F4. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Democrat, a Republican, an independent, or something else? **(IF "DEMOCRAT" OR "REPUBLICAN," ASK:)** Would you call yourself a strong (Democrat/Republican) or not a very strong (Democrat/Republican)? **(IF "INDEPENDENT," ASK:)** Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party, closer to the Democratic Party, or do you think of yourself as strictly independent?

Strong Democrat.....	17	[211]
Not very strong Democrat.....	10	
Independent/lean Democrat.....	15	
Strictly independent.....	16	
Independent/lean Republican.....	10	
Not very strong Republican.....	11	
Strong Republican.....	14	
Other	5	
Not sure/nothing.....	2	

F5. Thinking about your general approach to issues, do you consider yourself to be liberal, moderate, or conservative?

Liberal.....	20	[212]
Moderate.....	39	
Conservative.....	35	
Not sure.....	6	

F6a. What is your religion?

Protestant (includes Baptist, Lutheran, Methodist, Episcopal, Presbyterian, and other Christians).....	52	CONTINUE	[213]
Catholic.....	26		
Jewish.....	2	Skip to Q.F7	
Muslim.....	1		
Other.....	7		
None.....	9	CONTINUE	
Not sure/refused.....	3		

(ASK ONLY OF RESPONDENTS WHO SAY THEY ARE PROTESTANT, OTHER, NONE, OR NOT SURE IN QF6a.)

F6b. Would you describe yourself as either a fundamentalist or an evangelical Christian, or would you not describe yourself that way?

Fundamentalist/evangelical.....	20	[214]
Neither fundamentalist nor evangelical.....	44	
Not sure.....	7	
Catholic/Jewish/Muslim (Q.F6a).....	29	

F7. If you added together the yearly income of all the members of your family who were living at home last year, would the total be less than ten thousand dollars, between ten thousand dollars and twenty thousand dollars, between twenty thousand dollars and thirty thousand dollars, between thirty thousand dollars and forty thousand dollars, between forty thousand dollars and fifty thousand dollars, between fifty thousand dollars and seventy-five thousand dollars, between seventy-five thousand dollars and one hundred thousand dollars, or would the total be more than that?

Less than \$10,000.....	7	[215]
Between \$10,000 and \$20,000.....	9	
Between \$20,000 and \$30,000.....	11	
Between \$30,000 and \$40,000.....	11	
Between \$40,000 and \$50,000.....	10	
Between \$50,000 and \$75,000.....	17	
Between \$75,000 and \$100,000.....	10	
More than \$100,000.....	13	
Not sure/refused.....	12	